Feasting on Christmas

Welcome! At Christmas the Church overflows with people and with grace. What draws such crowds? It is an old family tradition? Do people love the Christmas hymns? Is it a sense of duty? It is the amazing story of Christ's birth in a manger?

What draws you to Christmas Mass? No matter why you come, the gift of grace is poured out in abundance. Have you opened yourself to that grace? St. Paul describes the gift of Jesus' life by saying:

> *"When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior" (Titus 3:4-6).*

If you attend Mass every Sunday out of duty, then you might remember that we never "earn" grace. Rather, we can only respond to it. Grace is always pure GIFT. Jesus was laid in a manger as a sign that he wants to feed us with his life. He was born in total poverty to show us that he came to fill our emptiness. The shepherds were the first to hear the message because he came to save ordinary working people.

Yes, we have a duty to come to Mass. Because we must respond to such love. At the Eucharist, the presence of the Risen Christ is poured out for us. The gift of his life and death is renewed in the Eucharist. We come here not to "earn points with God," but to open ourselves again and again to God's LIFE. We cannot earn it. We can only receive is with gratitude. If I ignore that gift, then it is a way of saying to God, *"The gift of your Son's life is not central to my life."*

If you have not been very active in your faith, then open your heart to the Christmas mystery. Let the *"kindness and generous love of God"* be yours. Respond to the grace.

St. John the evangelist tells us that some people ignored Jesus from the start.

> *"He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God."*

At Christmas the Church overflows ….. with people and with grace. All are welcome because grace is pure gift. Let the gift be yours. Feast on Christ with faithful worship.

Merry Christmas, Fr. Steve

Our Lady of the Black Hills

12365 Sturgis Road, Piedmont, SD 57769
phone: **605.787.5168** *fax:* **605.787.4106**
email: **olbh@olbh.org** *web:* **olbh.org**
Office hours: **Monday – Friday, 9am – 3pm**

Our Staff

Pastor:
Fr. Steve Biegler
steve.biegler@olbh.org

Deacons:
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Maintenance Coordinator
Jim Wranek
jim.wranek@olbh.org

Liturgy and Prayer

Sunday Liturgy:
Saturday, 5:00 pm;
Sunday, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm

Daily Liturgy:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration:
Wednesday, 8:30 am – 8:30 pm, with Reconciliation from 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:00 pm and Saturday, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Bulletin Announcements

Please email any announcements to bulletin@olbh.org by noon on Tuesday for the following weekend bulletin.

This Week at Our Lady of the Black Hills

December 26, 2011 – January 1, 2012

Monday, December 26

Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr

Readings: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalms 31:3-4, 6- 8, 16-17; Matthew 10:17-22 (red)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: + Msgr. Bill Lyons

7:00 pm: Cub Scout Bears Meeting

Tuesday, December 27

Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Readings: *First John 1:1-4; Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:2-8 (white)*

8:00 am: Morning Prayer

4:30 pm: Praying the Bible

7:00 pm: Boy Scout Meeting

Wednesday, December 28

Feast of St. the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Readings: *First John 1:5-2:2; Psalms 124:2-5, 7-8; Matthew 2:13-18 (red)*

8:00 am: Morning Prayer

8:30 am – 8:30 pm: Eucharistic Adoration

No Reconciliation

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

Thursday, December 29

Readings: *First John 2:3-11; Psalms 96:1-3, 5-6; Luke 2:22-35 (white)*

8:00 am: Morning Prayer

Friday, December 30

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Readings: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalms 128:1-5; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40 (white)*

Saturday Morning, December 31

Readings: *First John 2:18-21; Psalms 96:1-2, 11-13; John 1:1-18 (white)*

Food Pantry CLOSED

3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Evening, December 31

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Readings: *Numbers 6:22-27; Psalms 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (white)*

5:00 pm: Liturgy

Mass Intention: For the OLBH Community

Sunday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Readings: *Numbers 6:22-27; Psalms 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (white)*

9:00 am: Liturgy

Mass Intention: Peace among All Nations

10:00 am: Coffee Hour

6:00 pm: Liturgy

Mass Intention: For All Families

Charitable Gifts

INFORMATION FOR 2011

As the end of the calendar year approaches, please remember that charitable contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received. According to the IRS, a donor must relinquish control of donated funds in order to claim a contribution as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. To prove that control of the funds was relinquished in a certain calendar year, the contribution must be postmarked or delivered in person on or before December 31 to receive the deduction in that year. This is true **regardless of the date on the check**. Since December 31 falls on a Saturday and January 1 falls on a Sunday, collections in the parishes that week-end will be sorted by the calendar year in which the funds were received for accurate donor acknowledgment. If you want donations posted for 2011, they MUST be received by Saturday, December 31, 2011. Thank you.

OLBH Parish News

High School Mission Trip

OLBH is organizing a Mission Trip for the High School Youth (incoming 9th graders as of 2012) in our diocese, this summer to Denver, Colorado. Registration forms are in the gathering area with fee and payment schedule and will soon be on our website at olbh.org. As usual, we will fundraise to try to pay for half of the fee. We will be having a meeting once registrations are collected at the end of January. Please contact me if you have any questions. Don't miss out!
~ Teresa Thompson

Volunteer Appreciation Party

The staff of OLBH would like to thank all of you who volunteer of your time and talents by hosting a party in your honor. Please join us on Friday, January 6th from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at OLBH. Come and let us thank you.

Terra Sancta Volunteer Opportunity

We currently are taking names of adults or families that would like to help with sleeping room preparation at The Retreat Center at *Terra Sancta*. There are 24 rooms that need to be "dressed" with shower curtains, room supplies, sheets, towels, etc. This is a great way for your entire family to get involved with the preparation of the Retreat Center. We will be volunteering on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering for this project please sign up in our church office and complete a volunteer form. All children under age 18 must be accompanied by their parent. Please contact Jenny Scherr with questions: jenny.scherr@olbh.org

Life Night Resumes

Life Night will resume Sunday, January 15th at 4:00 pm. Have a safe holiday break & see you in January!

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Adult Life is hosting a five-part series study. Our assignment from last week was - Review the *Introduction* to the study pp. 1-2 and Complete Session 1, *Introductory Rites* pp. 5-10. There is still time to join our group; if you are interested, please contact Betsy at 787-5168 or show up on January 22nd.

Knights of Columbus Essay Contest

All 7th and 8th graders! The Knights of Columbus essay contest is in full swing. The theme for this year is *"What are your favorite parts of the Hail Mary, and what do you think of as you say this beautiful prayer during the reciting of the Rosary?"* All essays are to be typed, double spaced, contain 300 words or less and be submitted by January 31, 2012. Do not put your name on the essay, but rather on a separate piece of paper and include it with the essay. The essays can be emailed to blehresmann@yahoo.com or mailed to Brad Ehresmann, 21871 Running Deer Trail, Piedmont, SD 57769. If you have any questions, please call me 787-9302. First prize is $25 and then your essay is sent to the state level where you could win up to $100. Last year's local winner was Olivia Lyle. Good luck!

Community News

Courageous

Foothills Community Baptist Church is showing the movie Courageous on Dec 30th at 7:00 p.m. All of Piedmont Valley is invited and we'll supply all the soda and popcorn! The movie is about the tremendous impact that fathers have on their families. It's a challenge for fathers to be the dad's that God has called them to be.

Meals Program Ice Sculptures

The Meals Program (Meals on Wheels) will be holding an Ice Sculpture on Main Street Square on Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Randy Finch from Food Network's own Ice Brigade will be here to carve ice and to sign autographs. This event is open to the public and will be a free-will donation. Randy will also be teaching a class during this week that will teach individuals how to carve ice for a fee. We would like to hold a chili cook-off, and need individuals to participate with their chili. Please contact Marcia Mayer at 605-394-6002x15 or Marciamayer@rushmore.com for additional information.

More Diocese News

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1 Training Based on the Bible and liturgy, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I training is a series of formation courses that prepares adults to offer catechesis to children ages three to six years old. The 2012 sessions will be held April 13-15, July 20-22, and October 12-14. The final session will be held February 1-3, 2013. All sessions must be attended to complete the training. The fee is $500 per participant if paid by January 27; $600 if paid after that date. For more information or to register, contact Jenny Scherr at jenny.scherr@olbh.org. Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont, and St. Joseph's, Spearfish, are co-hosting the Level I training.

Diocesan Social Justice Commission

"How important it is, therefore, that every child coming into the world be welcomed by the warmth of a family! External comforts do not matter: Jesus was born in a stable and had a manger as his first cradle, but the love of Mary and of Joseph made him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved. Children need this: the love of their father and mother. It is this that gives them security and, as they grow, enables them to discover the meaning of life."

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, Feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 26, 2010, www.usccb.org
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/angelus/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20101226_santa-famiglia_en.html

Rachel's Corner

"He came to restore beauty and dignity to creation, to the universe: This is what began at Christmas and makes the angels rejoice. The earth is restored to good order by virtue of the fact that it is opened up to God … Thus Christmas is a feast of restored creation." - Pope Benedict XVI at Christmas Day Mass 2007

There is restoration and beauty in Christ Jesus. Find forgiveness, healing and hope at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™. Contact Carol Kling for information about area retreats at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com or go to the following diocesan website: www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Ministries/FamilyLife.htm.
For more information, contact the national office at 877-467-3463 or www.rachelsvineyard.org.

For the Ride Home

By Ted Bergh

Scripture

- How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation... (Isaiah 52:7)
- All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. (Psalm 98:3b)
- …in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2,3)
- And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw His glory... (John 1:14)

Reflection

- What gift or good tidings do you hope to receive today?
- What gift do you bring to share?
- Is Jesus born once or eternally in all hearts who see His glory?

Just imagine the incredible kindness and mercy! He was the only Son, but He did not want to remain alone. So that humans might be born of God, God was born of humans.

Begotten of God is He through Whom we were created; born of a woman is He through Whom we are to be re-created. The Word first wished to be born of humans, so that you might be assured of being born of God. (Sermon on John 2:13). [1]

[1]Augustine, Augustine Day by Day, compiled and edited by John E. Rotelle, O.S.A., (New York, Catholic Book Publishing), 1986, p. 184.

Wishing you and all of yours a blessed and wonderful Christmas season!

Rapid City Diocese News

Happiness Is an Inside Job

An eight-week non-denominational support group begins at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2012** at St. Therese the Little Flower Catholic Church, 532 Adams Street, Rapid City. The group uses John Powell's book by the same name to help participants deepen their healing experience following a significant loss due to death, divorce, or any major life change. Christian adults who are looking for peace, joy, and contentment in their lives are encouraged to participate! Pre-registration is requested but not required. The registration fee is $38.00. Need-based scholarships are available. To pre-register or for more information, contact Jill at Family Life Ministries 605-343-3541.

Bishop's 1st Friday Mass and Lunch

Bishop Gruss will celebrate First Friday Mass on January 6 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Mass will begin at 11:15 a.m. Lunch will be served in the church hall at noon. Bishop Gruss will present a talk after lunch. The charge for lunch is $6. Proceeds benefit Rapid City Catholic Schools. All are welcome.

Tour Terra Sancta

Fr. Steve Biegler will lead a tour of the construction project at Terra Sancta on Saturday, January 7. The tour, which is limited to 20 people, will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the chapel entrance. Reservations for the tour should be made by Wednesday, January 4. To make a reservation, please call Dottie at the chancery office at 343.3541.

National Vocations Awareness Week

January 8-14, 2012, is National Vocations Awareness Week. It begins with the celebration of the Epiphany. Wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to our Lord, and now we bring the gift of ourselves to him, as we follow wherever he leads us. Let us remember to pray for priests and consecrated men and women this week, and for married couples and families. Send a card to a priest or consecrated person this week, thanking them for the gift of themselves given to Christ and to His body, the Church, or invite them for dinner. Pray for more vocations to priesthood and consecrated life – and consider a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life! www.Gods-call.org

Catholics Returning Home

Were you raised Catholic but do not go to Church anymore? Are you a Catholic who feels separated from the Church? Do you know someone who also feels the same way? No matter how long it has been and no matter the reason, all are invited to consider renewing their relationship with the Catholic Church. The six-week "Catholics Returning Home" series begins at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at Blessed Sacrament, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City.** For more information, contact Greg Sass at greg.sass@olbh.org or 605-939-0579, or visit http://ReturningCatholics.net. There is no charge and pre-registration is not required.

Christian Family Planning Seminar

A Christian Family Planning Seminar will be offered by the Natural Family Planning Ministry on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Holy Cross in Timber Lake. This seminar is a requirement for engaged couples getting married in the Diocese of Rapid City. Married couples, or anyone who wants to learn more about Natural Family Planning, are encouraged to attend. For more information, or to register, call Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries at 605-343-3541.

Half Day of Prayer

Half Day of Prayer will be held January 28, 2012 in the large conference room at St. Martin's Monastery. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with Prayer from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Come and "rest awhile with the Lord" and enjoy a morning of silence with periods of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina. Refreshments will be served. Walk-ins are welcome. Donations will be accepted. For more information, contact Sister Marmion Howe, 343-8011, srmarmion@knology.net

Heal Your Grief

Bereavement Support Group

The Bereavement Support Group is an eight-week non-denominational group open to all Christian adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The support group begins at **7:00 p.m., Monday, January 30, 2012,** at Blessed Sacrament Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City. Please come early to register! For information or to pre-register, call Janece Rieman, 605-343-5547 or Jill at Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

Marriage Encounter

"The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the LORD." ***Proverbs 18:22*** Let us be thankful for the many gifts God has provided. Show your spouse just how thankful you really are. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is **February 10-12, 2012** at Broom Tree Retreat Center in Irene, SD. For more information or to register, please contact Curt & Rochelle Lauret at 605-362-9145 or visit www.WWME.org. *A weekend of discovery … a lifetime of love!*

Married Sweethearts Mass, Dinner & Dance

Couples, mark your calendars! Saturday, February 11, 2012! Join us for Mass at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The dinner-dance will be held at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, Rapid City following Mass. For more information, please contact Kathy at Family Life Ministries 343-3541 or kcordes@diorc.org.

"Developing Personal and Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition"

Rapid City Catholic School System

Blessings and Cheer to you and your family during this Christmas Season.

Thank you for your support and generosity to the Rapid City Catholic School System!

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas from Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center

We want to thank you all for your support this year. We celebrate the lives of these babies born over the past year.

Our Christmas Wish List:

-Large maternity tops/bottoms
-New clothing for girls age 0-3, 3-6, 6-9 months
-New clothing for boys age 0-3, 3-6, 6-9 months
-Newborn onsies for boys and girls
-New small baby toys / stuffed animals
-ink cartridges for Epson NX110
-laserjet toner cartridges for HP Laserjet M1212nf
-postage stamps
-2-32" New Flat Screen HD TV
-gift cards (Walmart, Sam's, Best Buy)

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule

December 31st, 2011 & January 1st, 2012

	Saturday 5:00 pm	Saturday 10:00 pm	Sunday 9:00 am
Bread Baker			
Altar Servers	Delainey Kronmiller Rileigh Kronmiller Tyler Trautman	Bob Weaver Christian Weaver Joshua Weaver	Kaleah Evans Rachel McCormick Adam Jerzak
Precious Body	**Walt Wilson** Greg Sass	**Walt Wilson** Pat Suiter	**Walt Wilson** Denise McCormick
Precious Blood	Nancy Sass Joe Deaver Jan Schurman	Barb Erickson Gary Erickson Christine Didriksen	Jim McCormick Sharon Long Michelle Bucholz
Lectors	Darcy Randle Jerry Meyer	Jean Schubauer Marty Quinn	Angie Oberle Thomas Jerzak
Sacristans	Cindy Thompson Craig Thompson	Brenda Jacobs Marc Jacobs	Blauvelt Family
Greeters	Sue Colgan Steve Colgan	Duane Schubauer Mike Keller	Robert Dyczek Kevin Rohrbach
Choir	OLBH Family Choir	Regina's Minstrels	Covenant Band

Intercessory Prayers

Life and Health Concerns

Jessie Bird
Marguerite Gilbert – Judy Gilbert's mother-in-law
Mary Lee Hathaway – Kelli McGregor's mom
Cary Nickle, Ricky Sass, Mike Steffen,
Lee Wentz – Bob & Ken Wentz's brother

Repose of the Soul

Bertha Witte – Joyce Williamson's mother
Cliff Meyer – Jerry Meyer's father

The Collection Basket

December 17 & 18, 2011

Loose	$ 1869.00
Envelopes	2040.50
Votive	5.00
Student	64.72
Adopt a Seminarian	235.00
Other	530.00
Total	$ 4744.22

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek,
but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

~ Martin Luther King

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December 11 & 14

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